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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/032,628	10/26/2001	Richard Foltak	M-11646-1C US	6807
33031	7590	07/15/2005	EXAMINER	
CAMPBELL STEPHENSON ASCOLESE, LLP 4807 SPICEWOOD SPRINGS RD. BLDG. 4, SUITE 201 AUSTIN, TX 78759			NEURAUTER, GEORGE C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2143	

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/032,628

Applicant(s)

FOLTAK ET AL.

Examiner

George C. Neurauter, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02252005.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-25 are currently presented and have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-12, 14-16, 18-19, 21, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "RFC 2866".

Regarding claim 1, "RFC 2866" discloses a method for maintaining a unique session ID in a network, comprising:

creating a unique session identifier ("Acct-Session-ID"; page 3, section 1.2 "Terminology", specifically "session"; page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS Accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting Start Packet..."; page 15, section 5.5 "Acct-Session-ID", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-ID"); and

providing the unique session identifier to a software module that provides for performing authentication ("RADIUS

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Accounting Server"). (page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS Accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting Start Packet...and will send that to the RADIUS Accounting server...")

Regarding claim 3, "RFC 2866" discloses the method recited in Claim 2, wherein the unique identifier is an IP address.

("NAS-IP-Address")

Regarding claim 4. "RFC 2866" discloses the method recited in Claim 1, further comprising providing the unique session identifier to an off-load server ("forwarding server"). (pages 4 and 5, section 2.3, "Proxy", specifically "1. The NAS sends an accounting-request to the forwarding server"; pages 15-16, section 5.5, "Acct-Session-Id", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-Id")

Regarding claim 6, "RFC 2866" discloses a system, comprising:

a network access server, the network access server being associated with a corresponding unique identifier; ("NAS-IP-Address")

wherein the network access server is configured to generate a corresponding local session identifier; ("NAS-Port" or "NAS-Port-Type"; page 8, section 4.1 "Accounting-Request",

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specifically "It should contain a NAS-Port or NAS-Port-Type attribute unless the service does not involve a port or the NAS does not distinguish between its ports") and

wherein the network server is further configured to generate a corresponding unique session identifier. ("Acct-Session-ID"; page 3, section 1.2 "Terminology", specifically "session"; page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS Accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting Start Packet..."; page 15, section 5.5 "Acct-Session-ID", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-ID")

Regarding claim 7, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 6, wherein the unique identifier is an IP address. ("NAS-IP-Address")

Regarding claim 8, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 6, wherein the network access server is one of a plurality of network access servers; each of the plurality of network access servers is configured to generate a corresponding local session identifier; ("NAS-Port" or "NAS-Port-Type"; page 8, section 4.1 "Accounting-Request", specifically "It should contain a NAS-Port or NAS-Port-Type attribute unless the service does not involve a port or the NAS does not distinguish between its ports") and each of the plurality of network servers is

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further configured to generate a corresponding unique session identifier. ("NAS-Port" or "NAS-Port-Type"; page 8, section 4.1 "Accounting-Request", specifically "It should contain a NAS-Port or NAS-Port-Type attribute unless the service does not involve a port or the NAS does not distinguish between its ports")

Regarding claim 9, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 6, further comprising an off-load server ("forwarding server"), the off-load server being coupled to receive the corresponding unique session identifier from the network access server. (pages 4 and 5, section 2.3, "Proxy", specifically "1. The NAS sends an accounting-request to the forwarding server"; pages 15-16, section 5.5, "Acct-Session-Id", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-Id")

Regarding claim 10, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 9, wherein the off-load server is configured to provide the corresponding unique session identifier to a software module that is configured to perform accounting processing. (pages 4 and 5, section 2.3, "Proxy", specifically "2. The forwarding server...forwards the request to the remote server")

Regarding claim 11, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 9, wherein the off-load server is configured to provide the corresponding unique session identifier to a software module that is configured to perform port counting. (pages 4 and 5,

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section 2.3, "Proxy", specifically "2. The forwarding server...forwards the request to the remote server")

Regarding claim 12, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 6, further comprising a software module that is configured to perform authentication, the software module being further configured to receive the corresponding unique session identifier from the network access server. (page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS Accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting Start Packet...and will send that to the RADIUS Accounting server...")

Regarding claim 14, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 9, wherein the off-load server is further configured to generate a start record, the off-load server being further configured to associate the start record with the corresponding unique session identifier (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet..."; page 15, section 5.5 "Acct-Session-ID", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-ID"); and the off-load server is further configured to provide the start record to a software module that provides for performing accounting processing. (pages 4 and 5, section

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2.3, "Proxy", specifically "2. The forwarding server...forwards the request to the remote server")

Regarding claim 15, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 9, further wherein the off-load server is further configured to generate a stop record, the off-load server being further configured to associate the stop record with the corresponding unique session identifier; (page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "At the end of service delivery the client will generate an Accounting Stop packet..."; page 15, section 5.5 "Acct-Session-ID", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-ID") and

the off-load server is further configured to provide the stop record to a software module that provides for performing accounting processing. (pages 4 and 5, section 2.3, "Proxy", specifically "2. The forwarding server...forwards the request to the remote server")

Claims 16 and 18-19 are also rejected since claims 16 and 18-19 recite an apparatus that contains substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 1 and 3-4 respectively.

Claims 21 and 23-24 are also rejected since claims 21 and 23-24 recite a computer program product that contains substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 1 and 3-4 respectively.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 2, 5, 13, 17, 20, 22, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "RFC 2866".

Regarding claim 2, "RFC 2866" discloses the method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose therein creating a unique session identifier further comprises appending a unique identifier associated with an access server to a local session

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identifier, however, "RFC 2866" does disclose a unique identifier associated with an access server ("NAS-IP-Address") and a local session identifier ("NAS-Port" or "NAS-Port-Type").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to append a unique identifier associated with an access server to a local session identifier since "RFC 2866" suggests that any sort of method of generating a unique session identifier may be used (page 16, section 5.5 "Acct-Session-ID", specifically "Other encodings are possible") and that the local session identifier may be used to delineate between services provided (page 8, section 4.1 "Accounting-Request", specifically "It should contain a NAS-Port or NAS-Port-Type attribute unless the service does not involve a port or the NAS does not distinguish between its ports"). One of ordinary skill also knows that ports are used to identify certain services and that a local session identifier such as a port number is appended to a unique identifier such as an IP address wherein the port number is associated with that IP address. Therefore, one of ordinary skill would have found it obvious to append a local session identifier to a unique identifier to create a unique session identifier as claimed given the teachings and suggestions of "RFC 2866" and the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art.

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Regarding claim 5, "RFC 2866" discloses the method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose wherein creating a unique session identifier further comprises creating a unique session identifier for each of a plurality of network access servers, however, "RFC 2866" does disclose wherein a unique identifier is used for each of a plurality of network access servers ("NAS-IP-Address").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to create a unique session identifier for each of a plurality of network access servers since "RFC 2866" suggests that any sort of method of generating a unique session identifier may be used (page 16, section 5.5 "Acct-Session-ID", specifically "Other encodings are possible"). One of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to create a unique session identifier by using a unique identifier for each of a plurality of network access servers as claimed based on the teachings and suggestions of "RFC 2866".

Regarding claim 13, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 6.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose wherein the network access server is further configured to generate the corresponding unique session identifier by appending the unique

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IP address with the local session identifier, however, "RFC 2866" does disclose a unique IP address associated with an access server ("NAS-IP-Address") and a local session identifier ("NAS-Port" or "NAS-Port-Type").

Claim 13 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 2 also apply to claim 13.

Claims 17 and 20 are also rejected since claims 17 and 20 recite an apparatus that contains substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 2 and 5 respectively.

Claims 22 and 25 are also rejected since claims 22 and 25 recite a computer program product that contains substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 2 and 5 respectively.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following prior art discloses the state of the art in RADIUS or AAA accounting servers:

US Patent 6 061 650 to Malkin et al;

US Patent 6 070 192 to Holt et al;

US Patent 6 151 628 to Xu et al;

US Patent 6 219 790 to Lloyd et al;

US Patent 6 298 383 to Gutman et al;

US Patent 6 377 982 to Rai et al;

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US Patent 6 405 251 to Bullard et al;

US Patent 6 430 619 to Sitaraman et al;

US Patent 6 446 200 to Ball et al;

US Patent 6 560 217 to Peirce et al;

US Patent 6 614 809 to Verma et al;

US Patent 6 625 657 to Bullard;

US Patent 6 751 663 to Farrell et al;

US Patent 6 836 765 to Sussman;

US Patent Application Publication 2002/0046277 to Barna et al;

US Patent Application Publication 2002/0069278 to Forslow;

US Patent Application Publication 2002/0091636 to Bullard;

Rigney, C. et al. "Request for Comments (RFC) 2865: Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS)", published by Network Working Group, June 2000, 76 pages;

Zorn, G. et al. "Request for Comments (RFC) 2867: RADIUS Accounting Modifications for Tunnel Protocol Support", published by Network Working Group, June 2000, 11 pages.

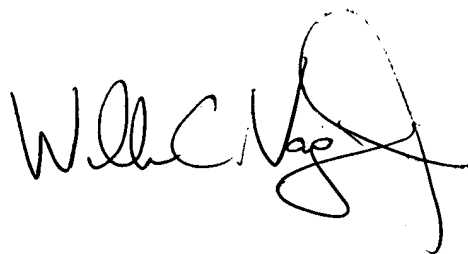
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C. Neurauter, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5:30PM Eastern.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gcn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W.C. Vaughn, Jr.', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

**WILLIAM C. VAUGHN, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER**